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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report highlights initiatives and activities undertaken with reference to indigenous peoples by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2007, with special focus on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session. The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has provided a fresh impetus to UNDP engagement with indigenous peoples. Examples of UNDP initiatives in this area are the Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme and the UNDP-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Community-based Adaptation (CBA) project. The UNDP *Human Development Report 2007/2008* states that, in addressing climate change, governance structures for overseeing shared goals have to extend beyond conservation and emissions targets to environmental and human development concerns, including respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples. The UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific (RIPP) has organized community and regional dialogues on the special theme of the seventh session: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges".

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In 2007, UNDP continued to support the establishment of participatory mechanisms for indigenous peoples, such as the GEF Small Grants Programme on participatory video and the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Council to the United Nations country team in Bolivia. UNDP is collaborating closely with the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Indigenous Issues to mainstream indigenous peoples' issues in mechanisms and processes at the country level. UNDP welcomes the guidance of the Permanent Forum, particularly regarding its contribution towards the full realization of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with articles 41 and 42 thereof.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at its sixth session and at previous sessions. It also provides details of activities, projects and programmes undertaken by UNDP in 2007 that are relevant to the work of the Permanent Forum.

2. On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, on 9 August 2007, the UNDP Administrator recognized the tireless efforts of indigenous peoples to maintain their distinctive cultures, socio-political systems and identity. He also reaffirmed the commitment of UNDP to supporting those efforts within the framework of human development, the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014) and the (then draft) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

3. The UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, as updated pursuant to decision 2007/32, adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund at its second regular session 2007 on 5 October 2007,[1] highlights the six fundamental values affirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] as being necessary for sustainable human development: equality, solidarity, freedom, shared responsibility, tolerance and respect for nature. In this context, UNDP supports Governments in the identification of effective interventions strengthening participation by the poorest social sectors, as well as by women, youth, persons living with disabilities, and indigenous people. Low or eroding civic participation is of concern for many countries, raising questions about public confidence and government legitimacy. Support to mobilize civic engagement among these groups is a basic foundation for strengthening their access to the policymaking process.

II. Response to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed to the United Nations Development Programme

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its sixth session

4. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum commended the establishment and achievements of the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme of UNDP in Asia, and called on UNDP to ensure that the funding of that Programme would be increased and that similar programmes would be set up in other regions.[3]

5. In response to a demand for targeted interventions at the regional level, UNDP had launched the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific (RIPP)[4] in September 2004. The Regional Initiative, present

[1] See DP/2008/2.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 104.

[4] RIPP website: http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/practices/governance/ripp.

in 10 countries, has completed its first phase of activities (2004-2007) and has gained recognition as a unique initiative within the United Nations system.

6. As part of its regional cooperation framework for the Asia-Pacific (2008-2011), UNDP has approved the second phase of the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development. The second phase will continue to be implemented by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Centre from 2008 to 2011 with a budget of $2,480,000 ($1,480,000 through UNDP core resources, an indication of the commitment of UNDP to indigenous issues).

7. The second phase of the Regional Initiative will continue to develop the capacity of Government officials and representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations to implement inclusive and participatory processes in policymaking and integrate indigenous peoples' rights into national policy and strategies. The second phase will also enhance national capacity to implement international norms and standards on anti-corruption and to fulfil indigenous peoples' human rights.

8. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the new regional Cooperation programme document for 2008-2011 (DP/RPD/RLA/1) emphasizes the high level of inequality in the region and the fact that "averages continue to dissimulate the plight of particularly vulnerable and excluded groups, especially women and children, youth, persons living with disabilities (PLW), afro-descendants and indigenous peoples". Inclusive participation towards democratic governance and civic engagement, in particular civic engagement of indigenous peoples, among other vulnerable groups, will constitute areas of key results.

9. With regard to the recommendation of the Permanent Forum to set up a regional programme in other regions similar to the UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific, further analysis will be necessary under the framework of the new regional cooperation framework in Latin America and the Caribbean and in connection with the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Indigenous Issues draft workplan. In some regions, initiating and strengthening national initiatives with indigenous peoples at the country level may prove more strategic than undertaking regional actions.

10. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum welcomed the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development of UNDP and, in particular, the pilot projects on gathering disaggregated data in the Philippines and Nepal. The Permanent Forum also recommended that the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme continue that work in other countries.[5]

11. As a follow-up to the above recommendation, the UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific piloted in 2005 and 2006 two data-disaggregation projects. A pilot project, implemented by the Tebtebba Foundation, aimed at developing a methodology to generate baseline data and addressed the lack of accurate information gathering vis-à-vis indigenous peoples. Working in cooperation with the National Statistics Office of the Philippines, the project has developed new tools for survey and census collection, including indicators. The results are being presented as best practice and shared with other countries in the region.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 125.

12. In cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific has also provided support to the non-governmental organization Nepal Tamang Ghedung in disaggregating data using information collected during the 2001 population census and other relevant surveys in Nepal. The project assembled, compiled and disaggregated data from published and unpublished records, files, survey reports and documents of Government bodies and departments and universities, and census data in the Central Bureau of Statistics. The data was disaggregated on the basis of ethnicity and included statistics on demography, education, health, migration, economy, human development, human rights and political status.

13. In Viet Nam, UNDP is implementing a project to support the National Target Programmes on Poverty Reduction in collecting baseline data for P135, a comprehensive ethnic minority database, with various disaggregated data. A key partner in this initiative is the Committee of Ethnic Minorities Affairs. Other implementing agencies include the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the General Statistics Office. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the Committee of Ethnic Minorities Affairs to manage budget support and organize consultations.

14. In India, UNDP supports human development reporting at the State and district levels. So far, 17 State Governments have prepared their State human development reports, including States with a high tribal/indigenous population, such as Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and the North-eastern States of Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. A key feature of these reports is the data analysis of human development indicators disaggregated by sex, population group and location.[6]

15. UNDP India is collaborating with the Indian Social Institute, a premier organization working predominantly on indigenous/tribal issues, in the preparation of a scoping paper on scheduled tribes for UNDP that will map their current status in human development, State-specific challenges for tribal populations, and the possible means to address them. The findings will be used to develop the country programme strategy.

B. Recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at previous sessions

16. At its fourth session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had recommended UNDP to strengthen its Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) projects in all regions of the world.[7] The Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme provides the framework for UNDP support to the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and will contribute to the realization of the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex) (articles 41 and 42). UNDP has been supporting a number of Governments in strengthening national capacity to design and implement

[6] Further details are available at http://www.undp.org.in/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=9.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 131.

a human rights-based approach to national development programmes and it will continue doing so.

17. The indigenous peoples' component of the Human Rights Strengthening projects, implemented in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala, Ecuador and Bolivia, was finalized in 2007. Despite its short period of implementation, the project has contributed to (a) sensitizing the staff of the three country offices on the rights of indigenous peoples; (b) increasing knowledge and awareness among the general public of indigenous peoples' issues; (c) increasing capacities of State institutions to fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples; and (d) increasing the capacity and coordination of the United Nations system at the country level.

18. In Ecuador, the main objectives of Human Rights Strengthening have been accomplished through the establishment of the Indigenous Directorate of the Ombudsman Office, the issuance of innovative research studies with disaggregated data, and the production of toolkits and academic curriculum, as well as radio and video broadcasting. Discussions are still ongoing to identify the modalities for the creation of a dialogue mechanism that needs to take into consideration the fragmentation of the indigenous movement in the country. Human Rights Strengthening contributed to the activation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Intercultural Issues.

19. In Guatemala, a toolkit has been produced to guide development practitioners in all programme and project cycles in including indigenous peoples' issues and rights. Human Rights Strengthening helped to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples through capacity development of their representatives in the existing development councils under the framework of the Programa Alianza con la Sociedad Civil (PASOC) project (see, additionally, paras. 58-60).

20. In Bolivia, the United Nations system established an Inter-Agency Working Group on Intercultural Issues (following the example of Ecuador) and an Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Council to the United Nations country team. The advisory council, created in December 2006, has facilitated the organization of meetings and consultations between indigenous peoples' representatives and delegates of United Nations organizations, including the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the right to food.

21. In 2007, one of the main activities of the Advisory Council has been to prepare for the participation of the representative(s) of Bolivia, including five representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, in the sixth session of the Permanent Forum. In the evaluation workshop organized after the sixth session of the Forum, there was a consultation with organizations on proposed actions to follow up the recommendations addressed to the United Nations organizations with presence in Bolivia.

22. The UNDP Civil Society Division has created a workspace in the United Nations Development Group website at http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=514 for the sharing of experiences in establishing civil society and indigenous peoples' advisory mechanisms such as the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Council in Bolivia.

III. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed to the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations organizations or to the United Nations system

Capacity development

23. In partnership with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation and local indigenous organizations, the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific is helping to train indigenous women in decision-making skills. In September 2007, UNDP facilitated two workshops for indigenous women in north-eastern India and in Nepal. UNDP has produced *Indigenous Women and Decision Making: A Community Training Manual*,[8] which has been translated into Bengali, Burmese, Malaysian and Thai. The Indigenous Women in Decision-Making initiative has been identified as a good practice by the inter-agency Task Force on Indigenous Women. It has been included in a compilation on "Indigenous women and the United Nations system" launched at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

24. The Asian Young Leaders in Governance Programme, aimed at strengthening the skills of future leaders, has received support from the United Nations Democracy Fund for 2007-2008 and tremendous support from country offices, Governments, civil society, and other sectors in the region. In 2007, a subregional training session was organized for South-East Asia with training modules developed specifically for this Programme. Young indigenous fellows are now actively networking in the region.

25. In conjunction with the Committee of Ethnic Minorities Affairs in Viet Nam, UNDP has launched a project to develop the capacity of the Committee and subnational departments of ethnic minority agencies in the areas of ethnic minority policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. With a grant of $1.2 million, this five-year project, is scheduled to start at the beginning of 2008, pending receipt of formal approval by the Government. The collaboration of UNDP with the Committee began in 2007 with the development of their strategic policy for ethnic minority vocational training and job creation.

26. The project "Indigenous capacities in Latin America" was implemented by Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panamaña (CEASPA), a Panama-based non-governmental organization. The project aimed at mapping and uploading information about indigenous peoples training programmes and materials into the Information and Learning Network for Latin America (ILN-LA), a knowledge management and capacity development network. Courses and materials are available at http://iln-la.nivel7.net/index.php?id=281. UNDP will transfer all materials into its new knowledge management platform, called C@PACIDADES, in March 2008.

27. The UNDP Virtual School for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the indigenous peoples' component of HURIST, has piloted an online course on indigenous peoples, democratic governance and human rights (www.escuelapnud.org) to strengthen the knowledge of United Nations staff, development practitioners, Government officials and university students on indigenous peoples' issues.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. 07.111.B.5.

Regional workshops on the special theme of the seventh session: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

28. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum recommended United Nations agencies and programmes to convene regional workshops on the special theme of the seventh session. As a follow-up, the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific conducted analytical studies on natural resources systems and their interface with national laws and policies in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. A regional synthesis paper draws on the country assessments to identify gaps in policy and practice, and key recommendations. The analytical studies are the first step in a broader, multidimensional strategy that includes the organization of community dialogues, a regional dialogue and a global dialogue, complemented by pilot projects on sustainable bioculturalism and adaptation to climate change. The results from the regional dialogue and community dialogues will inform the global dialogue at the seventh session of the Permanent Forum.

29. The Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific organized a regional dialogue on natural resources management in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in November 2007. More than 100 practitioners and policymakers from 13 countries in Asia shared their experiences of challenges and opportunities in respect of lands, natural resource management and cultural sustainability through the lens of climate change and adaptation. The event was organized in partnership with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, the Inter-Mountain Peoples' Association for Education and Culture in Thailand, and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, with support from the Christensen Fund. Participants adopted a regional action plan for further work in this area.

30. Two community dialogues were organized in October and November 2007 in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, and West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. There are four additional community dialogues planned for 2008-2009. The community dialogue in Indonesia highlighted the issue of unpredictable seasonal patterns which have caused serious damage to agriculture and livelihoods through severe flooding in the wet season and water shortages during the dry months. The extreme fluctuations in climate, marked since 1999, have affected human development negatively, and contributed to higher levels of poverty among indigenous communities. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the community dialogue focused on the traditional system of *jhum* (shifting) cultivation, and the impact of climate change on intensity, crop diversity and fallow management.

Indicators and disaggregated data on indigenous peoples

31. In 2005, UNDP Mexico partnered with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples to develop a human development index for indigenous peoples. UNDP Mexico has identified 25 regions with native population, gathering statistical information for 32 federal entities and for 31 ethno-linguistic communities. In December 2007, UNDP provided support to the seventh meeting of the Inter-institutional Technical Commission for Indigenous Peoples in developing

the capacity of the Government in the use of socio-economic statistics to visualize indigenous peoples' issues and plan actions to eliminate existing gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous populations. The main input for this meeting was the System of Geographical Information by Ethnic-linguistic Condition, which had been published in 2006 under United Nations sponsorship.

32. The Guatemala National Human Development Report 2005 on ethnic-cultural diversity included disaggregated data and contributed to the use of similar data and methodology by the National Institute of Statistics. In 2007, UNDP Guatemala focused on disseminating publications on indigenous peoples' issues and generating dynamics for the analysis of these publications, with a particular focus on the Millennium Development Goals.

33. The analysis of the above-mentioned data has informed the assessment of the situation of indigenous peoples in the country. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2005-2008 for Guatemala explicitly contemplates the elimination of all forms of discrimination against indigenous peoples. The United Nations country team has foreseen that the next Framework, to be initiated shortly, will have a stronger focus on indigenous peoples' issues.

34. The UNDP Poverty Reduction Group MDG support cluster is currently preparing a "peer review" process for the existing MDG needs assessment models in connection with a new project entitled "A human rights-based approach review to the MDG needs assessment models". These models guide global, regional and country teams when supporting programme countries in developing Millennium Development Goals-based development strategies. The project aims to ensure that MDG needs assessment models take into account and reflect rights-based standards and principles, including the rights of indigenous peoples.

IV. Additional information regarding recent projects, programmes and activities

Poverty reduction

35. The UNDP Poverty Reduction Group has developed a draft context-adaptable toolkit to offer guidance on how to determine the entry points and strengthen the role of civil society organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations, in the poverty and social impact analysis (PSIA) process. Poverty and social impact analyses are important ex ante analytical processes that review anticipated impacts of specific policy reforms on a country's development progress. The project was initiated in 2007 and the toolkit will be launched in 2008.

HIV/AIDS

36. Indigenous peoples often suffer marginalization and are thus more vulnerable to HIV infection. Yet, the cultural identification of indigenous peoples can be used as a positive force in HIV prevention and should be recognized in national AIDS frameworks. To this end, a chapter on HIV/AIDS was included in a Community Training Manual on Indigenous Women and Decision Making produced by the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the

Pacific and the UNDP gender mainstreaming programme in Asia. The Regional Initiative, in cooperation with the UNDP Regional HIV/AIDS Programme, contributed to a situation report on international migration in East Asia and South-East Asia, an inter-agency initiative led by the International Organization for Migration and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The report includes special chapters on indigenous peoples and migration, and on access to health, HIV and migration.

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP)

37. Working in over 100 countries, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP), implemented by UNDP, has since 1992 been at the forefront of efforts to address the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has pioneered the application of alternative modalities to work with indigenous peoples in many of its country programmes. The Small Grants Programme has supported over 1,600 projects with indigenous peoples, representing some 15 per cent of its total portfolio of projects. At an average of $22,000 per project, projects awarded to indigenous peoples have amounted to over $36 million globally since 1992.

38. The Small Grants Programme makes every effort to allow submission in local and vernacular languages and has also developed alternative proposal formats, such as participatory video. The Participatory Video Handbook was launched during the Permanent Forum in 2006, in collaboration with non-governmental organization Insight. Since mid-2006, the Small Grants Programme has been working with DotSUB (http://www.dotsub.com/films/unpfiiparticipatory/) to make more online translations available of indigenous peoples participatory video. The Participatory Video Handbook has been translated into Spanish, Russian and Indonesian.

Equator Initiative

39. The Equator Initiative (www.undp.org/equatorinitiative) is a partnership between UNDP, civil society, business, Governments and communities created to help develop the capacity and raise the profile of grass-roots efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Equator Initiative works in close collaboration with indigenous organizations. Over 40 per cent of Equator Prize finalists and winners (2002-2006) self-identify as indigenous groups, communities or initiatives.

40. In 2007, the Equator Prize 2004 finalist, Kalinga Mission for Indigenous Children and Youth Development (KAMICYDI) in the Philippines, worked with the Equator Initiative team to develop a business plan for a microcredit facility for indigenous women in Kalinga province. The endowment of the KAMICYDI microfinance programme through a private donation that had been facilitated by the Tribal Link Foundation and the Equator Initiative was recognized.

41. On 23 May 2007, the Equator Initiative hosted a dialogue on indigenous entrepreneurship in partnership with Aveda, the Tribal Link Foundation, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The dialogue focused on the successes and challenges of indigenous entrepreneurship. In 2007, the Equator Initiative published an article on the challenges and opportunities of indigenous entrepreneurship in the UN-Business

Focal Point, an online publication that seeks to enhance communication among United Nations private sector focal points.

UNDP Kenya

42. The engagement of UNDP Kenya with indigenous peoples stems from the implementation of the UNDP Human Rights Strengthening programme in 2004. The programme aimed at (a) strengthening the capacity of UNDP to work on indigenous peoples issues through the creation of a framework for sustained dialogue at the national level and (b) raising awareness among various stakeholders at the national level on the rights of indigenous peoples.

43. The activities initiated under Human Rights Strengthening contributed to the establishment of a United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee (UNIPACK). The Advisory Committee has provided support to the visit of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to Kenya in 2006. The selection of an Advisory Committee representative as a member of the National Steering Committee of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in Kenya will strengthen the building of linkages among various ongoing projects.

44. After the visit of the Special Rapporteur, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights established an Indigenous Peoples Team consisting of representatives from various indigenous peoples in Kenya as well as a representative of the Advisory Committee to review and propose possible interventions towards the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur. To this end, UNDP and the National Commission have jointly formulated (and are mobilizing resources for) a proposal that includes activities such as awareness-raising, capacity development of the National Commission and dissemination of the report of the Special Rapporteur.

45. The implementation of Assisting Communities Together, a global programme in Kenya, has been particularly successful. The programme supported seven indigenous peoples' organizations that produced significant achievements such as the provision of legal aid services, awareness on the implications of retrogressive cultural practices affecting the education of girls and the addressing of the subject of opportunities for indigenous disabled children in schools.

46. Efforts on information-sharing have been significant and have provided an important avenue for indigenous peoples' participation in various forums, particularly in voters' education processes before the elections. The United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee has embarked on a process of information-gathering through research and production of an extensive report on Advisory Committee activities in Kenya. This initiative also addresses the need to create harmony and unity of purpose among indigenous people in Kenya.

UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific

47. In 2007, some 30 projects and programmes were led or partnered by the Regional Initiative, with gender as a cross-cutting issue.

Law and policy

48. In response to a request for technical assistance from the Government of Cambodia, the Regional Initiative has been working closely with UNDP Cambodia to contribute towards the adoption of a policy on indigenous peoples' development. This has included support to the Ethnic Minority Department of the Ministry of Rural Development (the responsible governmental unit for indigenous peoples) in strengthening policy dialogue among Government agencies, civil society and indigenous peoples at the grass-roots and national levels, including 10 provinces. The policy is currently in the final stages of review prior to its adoption.

49. In close cooperation with UNDP Indonesia, the Regional Initiative has focused on a review of national laws and policies relevant to indigenous peoples. The Regional Initiative's involvement served as a catalyst in bringing together the Government of Indonesia and a national alliance of indigenous peoples to conduct the review, which included the organization of provincial and district-level consultations to identify gaps and provide recommendations for further action. The results informed a December 2007 policy workshop on the Accommodation of Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Constitution, organized by UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, the Constitutional Court and the National Commission on Human Rights.

Access to justice

50. An ongoing initiative of the Regional Initiative, in cooperation with the UNDP Asia Regional Governance Programme and Asia-Pacific Mainstreaming Gender Programme, is aimed at addressing the issue of "inclusive governance" as a priority concern in the region. In this context, the Regional Initiative examines how different institutions can overcome systematic exclusion of certain disadvantaged groups from accessing justice. It also looks at the interface between formal and customary law, and promotes the use of a human rights-based approach to programming on inclusive governance. The analytical reports on Bangladesh, Cambodia, India and the Philippines provide an insight into indigenous peoples' customary laws, and they will inform plans and programmes on access to justice in those countries.

Development policy

51. As part of an ongoing initiative on "Indigenous peoples and the human rights-based approach to development: engaging in dialogue", the Regional Initiative organized two subregional training workshops in October 2007 in (a) Nepal, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Nepal, and UNDP Nepal; and (b) the Philippines, with UNDP Philippines and the Cordillera Indigenous Peoples' Legal Centre. The two workshops provided 50 indigenous representatives with training skills on international law, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the application of the human rights-based approach to development from the perspective of indigenous peoples. The participants demonstrated great interest in carrying out follow-up national training plans.

52. A complementary activity has been the undertaking of a series of analytical studies of existing projects funded by the Asian Development Bank. The case studies, carried out in five countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the

Philippines) reviewed the use and enforcement of the Bank's safeguard policies, and established recommendations which have informed a Bank safeguard review process, with consultations undertaken in November 2007.

E-inclusion and media of indigenous peoples

53. The Regional Initiative, in partnership with the UNDP Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme and the Asia Regional Governance Programme, organized a workshop at the e-Bario Knowledge Fair in Sarawak, Malaysia, in December 2007. Bringing together representatives of indigenous information and communications technology (ICT)-media practitioners and researchers from 14 countries ranging across Asia and the Pacific and Canada and Australia, the workshop facilitated the sharing of knowledge and experiences and resulted in the formulation of an agenda and a regional action plan on e-inclusion and media for indigenous peoples, which included the development of an e-inclusion project for Asia's indigenous peoples in the second phase of the Regional Initiative (2008-2011).

UNDP Mexico

54. UNDP has been working with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous People over the last two years towards the implementation of an initiative to create and spread information on indigenous peoples for the purpose of decision-making. The initiative had a budget of $398,000 in 2007 and has a budget of $486,000 in 2008.

55. In 2007, UNDP Mexico carried out an assessment of indigenous women's political participation. As a result, UNDP will implement in 2008 a development capacity process to create better conditions for the effective exercise by indigenous women of their local authority-related responsibilities. UNDP will implement a project on electoral rights and political participation of indigenous peoples which is counting on the contribution of governmental and academic partners ($422,000).

56. UNDP Mexico has received $70,000 from the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund to carry out the project entitled "Empowering indigenous peoples for local development", which aims to promote accountability in local governments by increasing the capacity of indigenous communities to monitor the work of public institutions and their representatives.

UNDP Bolivia

57. As part of its collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP has provided financial support to representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations in strengthening their participation in the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and to the civil society delegation that is participating in the negotiations on trade agreements between the Andean Community and the European Union (EU). As part of a project to assist the Constituent Assembly, UNDP has funded an international consultant who will provide technical assistance to indigenous peoples' organizations and to various Assembly commissions in incorporating the rights of indigenous peoples in the Constitution.

UNDP Guatemala

58. UNDP Guatemala is currently implementing the second phase of the Programa Alianza con la Sociedad Civil (PASOC), a programme designed to strengthen civil society organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations. PASOC II has an annual budget of about $1 million (2007-2009) and aims to create constructive partnerships between State institutions and civil society organizations in the areas of discrimination and racism, transparency and social auditing. The consultative mechanism dimension, which was the main thrust of HURIST in the context of PASOC I, has been developed by strengthening indigenous peoples' participation in the existing development councils (official spaces for consultation on local and national development policies). A series of videos have been produced in indigenous languages for capacity development, as well as a manual on social auditing.

59. UNDP Guatemala is also implementing a project to support the productive reintegration of populations uprooted by the armed conflict (most of them indigenous peoples), in collaboration with the Consultative Assembly of Uprooted Populations, a self-recognized Mayan organization, with a total budget of $733,000 (2005-2008) and $262,000 for 2007. To sum up, UNDP Guatemala is using approximately $1.7 million for projects mainly related to indigenous peoples.

60. In 2007, UNDP Guatemala maintained a close relationship with the Council of Spiritual Guides of the Mayan Peoples and worked with it to prepare and publish the report entitled *Cosmovisión Maya: Plenitud de la Vida*, which is the first publication containing systematized information on the vision and values of the Mayan peoples.

UNDP Suriname

61. UNDP Suriname is supporting the dialogue among indigenous and tribal peoples in Suriname, the Government and other stakeholders on the issue of indigenous and tribal peoples' collective land rights. Suriname has no specific legislation on indigenous peoples' land rights and the lack of such legislation is a source of continuous conflicts related to the granting of mining and logging concessions, protected areas and their management, and conservation efforts.

62. A land rights project has made possible the establishment of a Joint Commission of the Traditional Authorities on Collective Land Rights. This marks the first time that the traditional authorities (paramount chiefs and chiefs) have established such commission, which is composed of indigenous and Maroon academics. The Commission is mandated, inter alia, to design a legal framework for the recognition of collective indigenous and tribal land rights in Suriname. At the time of the writing of this report, the Commission had prepared an action plan and was mobilizing resources for its implementation.

UNDP Russian Federation

63. As in previous years, the Governance and Environment Units of UNDP in the Russian Federation have contributed to the Russian-speaking component of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Indigenous Fellowship Programme. A number of UNDP environmental projects include a component related to indigenous peoples. For instance, the project "Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas in the Russian Federation's Kamchatka Peninsula, phases I and II" resulted in (a) draft

provisions on public councils and local self-governance and (b) the protection of the Bystrinsk and Nalychevo natural parks with the use of traditional environmental knowledge of the indigenous peoples in the north.

UNDP Bangladesh

64. UNDP Bangladesh is implementing the project "Promotion of development and confidence-building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts" (2004-2009) in collaboration with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. With a budget of $50 million, the project aims at improving socio-economic development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in line with the principles of self-reliance, decentralization and sustained peace. The purpose of the project is to reinvigorate and strengthen an effective and conducive development mechanism in the Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill Districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh.

65. The year 2007 was one of expansion for the project and significant results have been achieved. Besides the community empowerment and health clusters, some other clusters — education, local governance and institutional capacity-building, economic development and confidence-building — have also started the implementation of different activities. For example, the programme has facilitated a process of local-level institution-building, resulting in the formation of 1,635 *para* (hamlet) development committees spread over the entire Chittagong Hill Tracts.

66. The project has set up a number of high-level consultative platforms through which it interacts with the centrally placed key political and governmental leadership on various aspects of Chittagong Hill Tracts policies. The project has always advocated promotion of the "bottom-up peoples' empowerment" model of decentralized local governance in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

UNDP Indonesia

67. UNDP is supporting the local government of Papua in meeting one of the demands specified by the Special Autonomy Law on Papua as well as the people's demand to legalize *Adat* courts. The initiative seeks to promote the establishment of a special local regulation (PERDASUS) that will enable the use of *Adat* courts as a formal dispute resolution measure. The initiative includes the strengthening of the *Adat* courts in five selected districts in Papua and West Papua provinces; and advocacy and coordination among the provincial prosecution office and other institutions.

UNDP Lao People's Democratic Republic

68. A UNDP Country Office Working Group has been established to promote the mainstreaming of indigenous peoples into UNDP programming. The Working Group conducted a Learning Series on Ethnic Diversity for UNDP staff. An internal library on indigenous peoples/ethnic minority issues was set up and a desk review on ethnic minority peoples in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was carried out, with recommendations on how UNDP can better address ethnic minority issues, particularly those dealing with access to land and resettlement.

69. Access to information presents significant challenges in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, owing to its diverse culture and languages. The Community Radio Project, launched in 2007 and the first of its kind, broadcasts radio shows in

three local languages on issues such as culture, health, agriculture and current events. UNDP has also been working with Lao National Television to produce a TV series on the ethnic minority groups of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

UNDP Nepal

70. New and ongoing projects include 14 initiatives encompassing work with 12 indigenous communities in 13 districts of Nepal. The initiatives have focused on improving indigenous peoples' livelihoods, strengthening awareness-raising capabilities, and conservation and management of traditional Himalayan medicine (*Sowo Rippo*) and healers (*Amchis*). Projects to improve livelihoods include: improvement of vermin-compost and renewable energy technology; improving shifting cultivation and conserving wild tuberous plants; and introducing innovative stove technology for traditional ironworkers.

UNDP Thailand

71. The UNDP Governance Unit, in collaboration with the Inter-Mountain Peoples' Association for Education and Culture in Thailand, has implemented a project entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous and highland ethnic peoples in Thailand". The project aims at educating, advocating for and strengthening networks of highland ethnic peoples, through four main activities: (a) establishment of a human rights documentation centre (for highland ethnic peoples); (b) training on human rights for ethnic leaders; (c) setting up of a mechanism for legal assistance; and (d) networking among civil society organizations, governmental organizations and international actors. The project is supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund. The Environment Unit also launched a project entitled "Indigenous livelihood restoration and sustainable ecology for Lanta Island, Krabi", aimed at assisting in the recovery and restoration of the communities in tsunami-affected areas so as to preserve and promote their cultural heritage.

UNDP Cambodia

72. In 2007, UNDP Cambodia worked closely with civil society and indigenous peoples' networks to help indigenous youth gain the knowledge and experience needed for greater involvement in community work. Two leadership training courses were conducted to support intergenerational dialogue between indigenous youth and elders. UNDP provided support to indigenous youth to raise awareness on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

UNDP Malaysia

73. UNDP Malaysia is implementing a project entitled "Study to identify strategies and programmes to eradicate poverty and improve employment and equity restructuring in Sabah and Sarawak" (November 2005-June 2008). This project is aimed at assisting the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Department of the Prime Minister, and the State Economic Planning Units of Sabah and Sarawak, where the majority of the country's indigenous peoples live, in identifying the main factors impacting on poverty and equity restructuring efforts. In addition to implementing this study, UNDP has recently produced a publication entitled "Malaysia: Measuring and Monitoring Poverty and Income Inequality", which details the profiles of the poor in Malaysia and shows that there remain relatively

large numbers of poor households living in poverty in rural Sabah and Sarawak, as well as in the rural areas of Terengganu, Kelantan and Kedah.

74. The lessons learned from the previous country programme 2003-2007 have helped UNDP Malaysia to focus its new country programme, 2008-2012, on the vulnerable and marginalized, giving priority to the rural communities, particularly those in Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah. UNDP Malaysia has also made progress in engaging the private sector and has partnered with Honda Malaysia to implement a project entitled "Human resource development through education and training for Malaysian youths", which provides 20 higher-education scholarships to underprivileged students.

75. A one-day policy dialogue was organized in collaboration with the United Nations country team, to discuss the localization of Millennium Development Goals from the perspective of improving spatial and ethnic equity in development outcomes in the less developed State of Sabah. The dialogue was organized to (a) draw attention to huge inequities in economic and social outcomes, spatially and between ethnic communities in Sabah and (b) take stock of progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Sabah and of the constraints on further progress.

UNDP India

76. UNDP India supports a number of projects undertaken in indigenous/tribal areas. A recently completed project entitled "Strengthening sustainable livelihoods for biodiversity conservation in Sundarbans" focused on sustainable development and biodiversity conservation for the Sundarbans ecosystem. A related project entitled "Conservation and sustainable use of the Gulf of Mannar biosphere reserve's coastal biodiversity" aims to demonstrate the modalities for integrating biodiversity conservation, sustainable coastal zone management and the livelihoods of local communities, including indigenous peoples. In addition, UNDP India is participating in a joint United Nations project to contribute to the national response in respect of reducing the risk and impact of HIV/AIDS in the four north-east States of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya, home to a large number of indigenous peoples.

UNDP Philippines

77. The project entitled "Integrated programme for the empowerment of indigenous peoples and sustainable development of the ancestral domain" aims at supporting the effective implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997. The project consists of (a) the formulation and pilot implementation of the ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans in ancestral domains that have been awarded their titles; and (b) capacity development of indigenous peoples communities, especially of leaders, youth and women. The project, with a total budge of $850,000 for three years, is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Agrarian Reform and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. In 2007, out of the 10 targeted sites for formulation of the protection plans, 5 had fulfilled the minimum requirements needed to produce the final printed forms.

V. Information regarding the special theme of the seventh session: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

UNDP *Human Development Report 2007/2008*

78. The UNDP *Human Development Report 2007/2008: Fighting Climate Change — Human Solidarity in a Divided World*[9] (http://hdr.undp.org/en/-) underlines the fact that international cooperation on climate change alone cannot resolve the wider problems driving deforestation and that the world is losing an opportunity to unite the climate change mitigation agenda with a range of wider human development benefits. The report also affirms that multilateral mechanisms and governance structures should be developed as part of a broad-based strategy for human development that extends beyond meeting conservation and emission targets to addressing a far wider set of development concerns, including respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation

79. UNDP believes that reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) presents an opportunity to jointly address climate change and rural poverty, while sustaining ecosystem services and conserving biodiversity. Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation could offer up significant new resources for sustainable forest management and conservation. However, since forests support the livelihoods of several hundred million people, including some of the poorest communities in the developing world, the Poverty-Environment Partnership, of which UNDP is a part, pleads for more attention to be paid to the interests of all stakeholders, especially rural people who live in and depend upon forest ecosystems. New initiatives designed to address climate change by conserving forests and other ecosystems, such as REDD, must be driven not only by their potential climate and other environmental benefits but also by consideration of how they will affect rural communities.

80. Hard-won lessons derived from years of experience in the agriculture and forest sectors, in nature conservation and in the global carbon market can all help guide the design of more equitable and effective REDD mechanisms. Challenges such as governance issues, weak rural land tenure regimes, limited access by vulnerable groups to investment finance, markets and information, and capture of benefits by local or national "elites" need to be addressed. Community-based and participatory approaches can help overcome such hurdles, although their high initial costs can make them difficult to implement in practice. In the long run, however, efforts to enlist community support for REDD should reduce costs and risks and increase total benefits.

[9] Basingstoke, United Kingdom, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

The UNDP-GEF Community-based Adaptation (CBA) project

81. Local communities, including many indigenous peoples, are often those most directly affected by the impact of climate change. In some instances, members of those communities may also be the least equipped to cope with the effects of climate change and, as a consequence, will require external support in adapting their livelihoods to changing patterns of rainfall, drought, flooding and other climate-related risks. In this regard, a UNDP-GEF Community-based Adaptation (CBA) project launched in November 2007 will be piloting the community component of the GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation in order to build the resilience of communities and the ecosystems upon which they rely in the face of climate change impacts. Of the 10 countries selected, several with high concentrations of indigenous peoples will also be piloting field-based CBA projects that target indigenous populations.

82. In addition to addressing the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to climate change, the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of many indigenous peoples also reflects an intimate and long-term understanding of climatic trends and variability. The GEF Small Grants Programme has been collaborating with various partners such as the Mountain Institute, the Christensen Fund, Insight, and the Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network website to develop new field-based tools, such as participatory video and community-based repeat photography, in a number of countries with a view to documenting and facilitating the traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples related to climate change. Given that "adaptive capacity" to address climate change is central to the recent agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 to create a mechanism to fund field-based adaptation projects, it is expected that these tools will play an important role in demonstrating the resilience and adaptive responses of indigenous peoples in the face of climate change.

VI. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

83. Given their political implications, the establishment of consultative/dialogue mechanisms continues to be a challenging task. The presence of various factors is essential to achieving this goal including a Government-enabling environment and the unity of, or good collaboration within, in the indigenous peoples' movement at the national level. In this context, the leading role of United Nations resident coordinators and UNDP engagement at the corporate level through the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources will continue to be essential.

VII. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations

84. The strong collaboration among United Nations organizations and programmes, members of the Inter-Agency Support Group and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum creates an environment that is conducive to greater effectiveness. In 2007, UNDP actively participated in the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Indigenous Issues in developing guidelines and a workplan for mainstreaming and integrating indigenous peoples into country processes and mechanisms.

85. The UNDP Oslo Governance Centre sponsored the preparation of a paper entitled "UNDP and indigenous peoples: towards effective partnerships for human rights and development" (November 2006), written by Max Ooft, Assistant Resident Representative and Programme Specialist, Governance, in UNDP Suriname.[10] The study includes a review and assessment of UNDP projects and programmes with indigenous peoples and argues that "partnerships with indigenous peoples can be a strong niche area for UNDP as a trusted United Nations partner at country level with a strong leveraging and facilitating potential for programmatically applying the rights-based approach to development" (chap. I (b)). The recommendations of the study, which have proved highly useful, will continue to inform the work of UNDP in the future.

86. UNDP engagement with indigenous peoples has received a fresh impetus with the historic adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

VIII. Policy on indigenous peoples' issues and other similar tools and mechanisms

87. In the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004), UNDP issued a policy guidance note in August 2001 entitled "UNDP and indigenous peoples: a practice note on engagement". The UNDP policy is underpinned by the normative human rights framework and recognizes indigenous peoples' vital role in, and contribution to, development. Also in 2001, UNDP issued a practice note on engagement with civil society organizations. This document provides UNDP with a framework within which to guide its work in building sustainable partnerships with civil society organizations, including organizations working on indigenous peoples' issues.

88. In May 2000, UNDP established a Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee to the Administrator to provide strategic advice to senior management on key policy directions. The Committee, which includes the chair of the Permanent Forum, has helped bring indigenous peoples' concerns to the attention of the UNDP Administrator and senior management.

89. UNDP has also supported the establishment of national civil society advisory committees and indigenous peoples' advisory committees to United Nations country teams in a number of countries and will continue to support these processes.

IX. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum

"Autonomous development in dignity"

90. A self-government dimension would allow participants at the Permanent Forum to share experiences on how to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to manage their own governing systems, with particular emphasis on the extent to

[10] Available from http://www.undp.org/oslocentre/docs06/Max_Ooft.pdf.

which there are systems or mechanisms in place to design and implement development strategies that enjoy indigenous ownership.

91. An autonomous economic development dimension would constitute a unique opportunity to share experiences and ideas on how indigenous peoples worldwide are coping with, or finding innovative ways to participate in, economic development initiatives, whether through non-timber forest products, agriculture, tourism, casinos, etc. Such analysis would allow a critical look at the marginalization of indigenous peoples from participation in mainstream economic policymaking and globalization as well as marginalization from actual economic activities, including access to production factors such as land, capital, infrastructure and communications. It would also provide an opportunity to voice concerns and ideas on indigenous peoples' degree of participation in initiatives such as debt swaps, carbon credits and other clean development initiatives.

X. Conclusions

92. **A renewed sense of global partnership in all its dimensions of shared responsibility, accountability and reciprocity will be vital in respect of facing current and future challenges, particularly in addressing climate change and adaptation initiatives. UNDP will continue to engage with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and with indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' organizations at the global, regional, national and local levels.**

93. **UNDP encourages indigenous peoples to engage with the UNDP mandate to help people build a better life, and to work jointly towards the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 41 of which states:**

> **The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.**